

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 58th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN BILL THOMAS**, on March 7, 2003 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 172 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Bill Thomas, Chairman (R)
Rep. Arlene Becker, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Mark Noennig, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Tom Facey (D)
Rep. Ray Hawk (R)
Rep. Daniel S. Hurwitz (R)
Rep. Larry Jent (D)
Rep. Penny Morgan (R)
Rep. Holly Raser (D)
Rep. Don Roberts (R)
Rep. Ron Stoker (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Steven Gallus (D)
Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Susan Fox, Legislative Branch
CJ Johnson, Committee Secretary

Please Note. These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed. The time stamp for these minutes appears at the end of content it refers to.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 94, SB 95, 3/3/2003
Executive Action: None

HEARING ON SB 94

Sponsor: SEN. EMILY STONINGTON, SD 15, Bozeman, Montana

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SEN. STONINGTON opened the hearing on SB 94 stating that this bill is being introduced at the request of the Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS). This bill will provide a greater wrap-around of services for children. It is a multi-agency bill that creates a way to combine all agencies working with high-risk children.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 4.9}

Proponents' Testimony:

Dan Anderson, State of Montana, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), stated that SB 94 is the result of a long-term process. The bill addresses the most cost-effective way of dealing with high-risk children who have high-service needs. SB 94 defines a target group of children with severe emotional disturbance, in and out-of home placement and the need for a multi-need agency form of service. **Mr. Anderson** stated that these kids are extremely expensive to the State of Montana. Mr. Anderson explained specifically how this bill would work.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 4.9 - 8.2}

Bonnie Adee, State of Montana, Mental Health Ombudsman, spoke in support of SB 94. She presented her written testimony to the Committee. Ms. Adee outlined what this bill would accomplish.

EXHIBIT (huh48a01)

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 8.2 - 14.9}

Janie McCall, Montana Children's Initiative, spoke in support of SB 94. Ms. McCall gave testimony to the Committee about the various federal programs, grants and programs that Montana would like to participate in. She spoke of the pilot programs and where they are located. Within her testimony, Ms. Call gave an overview about Kids Integrated Delivery Systems (KIDS).

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 14.9 - 20}

Audrey Ahlums, Board of Crime Control, stated her support of SB 94. She spoke about the Youth Justice Council, and the funding that has been supplied through federal grants for support of the Children's Initiative group.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 20 - 22.1}

Allen Davis, Montana Mental Health Association, spoke in support of SB 94.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 22.1 - 23.5}

Rick Chiotti, State of Montana, Office of Public Instruction (OPI), spoke in support of SB 94 on behalf of Linda McCullough, Director, OPI.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 23.0 - 24.3}

Chris Christiaens, Montana Chapter of National Association of Social Workers, spoke in support of SB 94.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 24.3 - 26.3}

Shirley Brown, State of Montana, Department of Health and Human Services, spoke in strong support of SB 94. Within Ms. Brown's testimony were many points of interest such as communication, accountability, addressing budget issues, participation of family members and maximum use of funding.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 26.3 - 28.2}

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

REPS. NOENNIG, FACEY, STOKER, ROBERTS, HURWITZ, MORGAN, BECKER, and **HAWK** extensively questioned the sponsor, Mr. Anderson, Ms. Adee, Ms. McCall and Ms. Ahlum. Among the questions asked were the prohibitions within the current law, the pilot programs and the expansion thereof, the process to whom the teams report, medicaid funding and therapeutic group homes. Also queried was the process for accounts payable, what provisions are in place when an agency no longer has funding, out-of-state placements for residents, and the structure of multi-service agencies.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 26.2 - 32.1}

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 30}

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 4.5}

Closing by Sponsor:

SEN. STONINGTON closed the hearing on SB 94 by stating that this bill will create a process and focus as to these children who are in extreme need and contribute to the extreme cost within agencies, it will also address the budget shortfalls within agencies.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 4.5 - 6.3}

HEARING ON SB 95

Sponsor: SEN. EMILY STONINGTON, SD 15, Bozeman, Montana

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SEN. STONINGTON opened the hearing on SB 95 by stating that this bill is in another part of the codes that will effect children and families within DPHHS. However, this is the child and family services department and this is their "omnibus" bill.

The bill was brought forth at the request of DPHHS. SB 95 will clarify language and amend several provisions of various titles that effect children and families.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 6.3 - 11}

Proponents' Testimony:

Shirley Brown, State of Montana, Department of Public Health and Human Services, presented her written testimony to the Committee. This testimony referred to statutes that have been significantly amended by the past three legislatures. Her testimony included three types of amendments proposed for this bill that addressed specific sections.

EXHIBIT (huh48a02)

EXHIBIT (huh48a03)

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 11 - 30}

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 15.6}

Beth Satre, Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, stated her support of SB 95. She spoke to the Committee about her organization's role in working with Child Protective Services (CPS).

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 15.6 - 16.7}

Chris Christiaens, Montana Chapter of National Association of Social Workers, spoke in favor of SB 95, and informed the Committee that his organization has over 500 licensed Social Workers in Montana who work directly with CPS/DPHHS. He stated that this is a clean-up bill that brings statute up to date and be in compliance with Federal law.

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 16.7 - 18}

Janie McCall, Montana Children's Initiative, spoke in support of SB 95 stating that this bill provides further protection for children who are abused and neglected. **Ms. McCall** said that in 2002, 3,500 kids were in out-of-home placement in the State of Montana.

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 18 - 20}

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

REPS. MORGAN, NOENNIG, FACEY, and RASER asked the sponsor and Ms. Brown several questions about the responsibility of the department to pay for services when ordered, how to determine when a child is psychologically harmed, legal status while in temporary custody, adoption services from out-of-state providers, the time frame for cases to be assigned and resolution of those cases.

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 20 - 30}

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 22.8}

Closing by Sponsor:

SEN. STONINGTON closed the hearing on SB 95 and urged the Committee to vote favorably on this and SB 94.

{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 22.8 - 25.8}

REP. NOENNIG requested that a subcommittee be appointed to study this bill. **CHAIRMAN THOMAS** appointed **REPS. NOENNIG, JENT, RASER** and **BECKER** to this subcommittee.

CHAIRMAN THOMAS recognized **Ms. Fox, Legislative Staffer**, who informed the Committee that when two or more bills are to be coordinated, she is responsible for completing a "conflict check" for bills that are to be coordinated after the transmittal of bills is done in March.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 6:00 P.M.

REP. BILL THOMAS, Chairman

CJ JOHNSON, Secretary

BT/CJ

EXHIBIT (huh48aad)